

INFORMATION ABOUT:

Off Road Vehicle Use



U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

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Welcome to the public lands administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Wyoming. These lands are yours to enjoy and use for a variety of recreational opportunities. The following are a few things you should be aware of before you use your off-road vehicle (ORV) on the BLM public lands.

Definition: Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) means any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain.

Vehicle Use: BLM regulations in Wyoming state that ORV use be limited to existing roads and trails unless otherwise posted as open or closed.

DESIGNATIONS ON BLM PUBLIC LANDS:

- 1. Limited to Existing Roads and Trails:** If you have questions about a specific area or activity, please contact the local field office for up-to-date information. Please limit travel during inclement weather so that resource damage can be minimized. Temporary excursions leaving existing vehicle routes are permitted only to accomplish necessary tasks and only if such travel does not result in resource damage. Examples include picking up big game kills, repairing range improvements and managing livestock. Off-road vehicular designations apply to all ORV's regardless of their purpose. However, emergency situations or official use are excluded from these designations.

Resource damage is defined as leaving long-term signs of vehicle use (ruts), causing erosion or water pollution or creating undue degradation of other vegetative or wildlife resources.

Random or unnecessary travel from existing roads and trails is not allowed, extension and/or widening of existing roads and trails is not allowed without prior written BLM approval.

- 2. Limited to Designated Roads and Trails:** Vehicle travel is permitted only on roads and trails designated open by the BLM.
- 3. Closed Designation:** Areas identified for ORV closure to protect natural and scenic values. This would include designated wilderness areas—all motorized and mechanical vehicles are prohibited.

VIOLATIONS OF THE ORV DESIGNATIONS ARE PUNISHABLE BY LAW.

Ownership: Wyoming's land ownership pattern can be very confusing. It is advisable to obtain maps of the areas you will be visiting so that you can identify private land and avoid trespassing. Maps are readily available at the BLM Wyoming State Office and all Wyoming BLM field offices.

Access: Public lands may be legally accessible only on public roads or on routes having public easements. All public lands intersected by a public road may be used by the general public free of charge. It is important to determine access availability prior to visiting the public lands. If you have any questions about a specific area and its access, please contact the local BLM field office where the land is located.

If you do wish to use or cross private lands, you need to make sure you have the permission of the private landowner, after all, it is their land, and it is Wyoming state law.

Back Country Byways: This BLM program offers an opportunity to explore the beauty of Wyoming's public lands. These roads and trails are off the beaten path. The byways offer a chance to see wildlife, petroglyphs, canyons, fishing areas, ranching, mining, camping, hiking, picnicking and pristine wilderness areas. Please contact the local BLM office for more information about the back country byway program.